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How



FARMER

COOPERATIVE

SERVICE

Works



EDUCATION • RESEARCH • SERVICE

How **FARMER COOPERATIVE SERVICE** *Works*

The function of Farmer Cooperative Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is to help farmers improve their economic position through the development and operation of sound effective cooperatives.

Research, advisory service, and educational work with farmer cooperatives has been going on in the Department of Agriculture since 1913 when Congress first provided specific funds for this type of work. Today this program is carried on under authority of the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

Farmer Cooperative Service (FCS) is the agency in the Department that deals with problems of farmers in operating their own cooperative businesses.

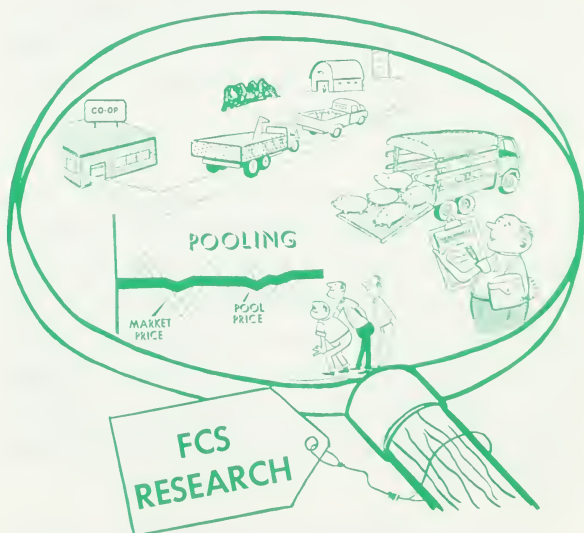
4 OUT OF **5** FARMERS



ARE MEMBERS OF COOPERATIVES

The work of FCS touches on the lives of more than 4 out of 5 U. S. farmers. These farmers market products, buy supplies, or get business services through their own cooperative business enterprises.

Research



The foundation of our program is research--with basic studies on organization, financing, management, accounting, merchandising, transportation, and other aspects of farmer cooperation.

Illustrative of FCS research have been our studies of cooperative revolving funds and financing structure, selecting and functioning of boards of directors, and methods of improving membership understanding. Many of our studies are designed to promote marketing and purchasing organizational efficiency. The value of these studies shows up in increased net returns for farmers.

Advisory Service

Research work is not completed unless it is put to use. Members of FCS staff in advisory capacities help farmers in a cooperative or group of cooperatives with urgent problems.



For example, FCS has helped many cooperatives on problems of consolidation and operation. Much of this work -- which has greatly improved service to farmers while providing them with substantial savings -- is done in cooperation with the local land-grant colleges and universities.

Education

Education in sound cooperative principles and practices is the third responsibility of F.C.S. Results of its studies are disseminated in publications and talks, at workshops and clinics, and through many other outlets. The staff provides source material for cooperatives, county agents, other Extension workers, colleges, vocational agricultural teachers, farm organizations and all others interested in farmer cooperative organizations.



FCS issues a monthly magazine, the News for Farmer Cooperatives, to get research results and other needed information out quickly. Many of the articles, written by cooperative management as well as FCS staff, give down-to-earth facts about specific farmer cooperatives, their operations, and their problems.

Statistics

One of our most valuable FCS publications is "Statistics of Farmer Cooperatives." This annual report provides a complete record of farmer cooperative growth and development. It is widely used by cooperatives and public agencies of various types.



This report presents the latest figures available on cooperative volume and membership broken down by States and types of commodities.

It is of striking significance that 95 percent of all farmer marketing and purchasing cooperatives voluntarily provide current information for use in this survey.

F C S Can Help

Through the years, FCS has built a storehouse of valuable information for those interested in farmer cooperation.

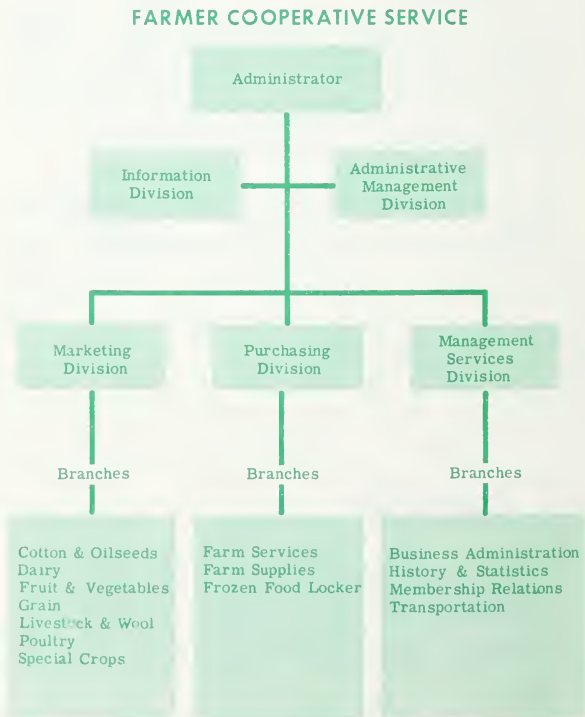
--Suppose a farmer is one of a group interested in the possibility of organizing a cooperative to market farm products or purchase farm supplies.

--Or, suppose a cooperative is having trouble with some phase of its operations.

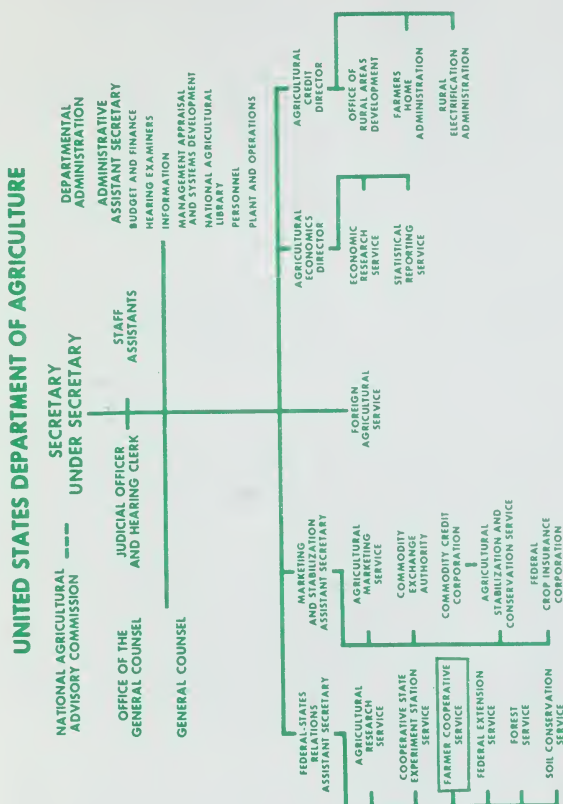
In such instances FCS is often able to help. The problem may call for direct study to meet specific needs. However, no new research may be called for, as previous studies may provide the essential information required.

Organization of FCS

The following chart shows how Farmer Cooperative Service is set up to serve farmer cooperatives.



How the Farmer Cooperative Service fits into the U. S. Department of Agriculture.



This is Farmer Cooperative Service. These are some of the ways it carries out its responsibility--to help farmers improve their income through use of cooperatives in marketing farm products and in obtaining needed farm supplies and related services.

Other Publications Available

The Story of Farmer's Cooperatives.
Educational Circular 1.

Helping Farmers Build Cooperatives.
Circular 31.

Organizing a Farmer Cooperative.
Circular 18.

Financing Farmer Cooperatives. Ed-
ucational Circular 5

How the Work of FCS With Farmer
Cooperatives Contributes to the Na-
tional Interest. Information 25.

Cooperatives in the American Private
Enterprise System. Information 24.

Co-ops Have a Place in Rural Com-
munity Progress. Information 23.

A copy of these publications may be
obtained upon request while a supply
is available from --

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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

